

The Methane Waste Prevention Act of 2021

Section-by-Section

Sec 1. establishes the Act as The Methane Waste Prevention Act of 2021

Sec 2. sets goals and mandates for controlling methane emissions from the oil and gas sector, including:

- Establishing a national goal to reduce methane emissions from the oil and natural gas sector by 65% below 2012 emissions by 2025 and 90% by 2030;
- Directing the EPA Administrator to issue regulations under the Clean Air Act to control methane emissions from the oil and natural gas sector in order to achieve the established national reduction goals; and
- Requiring the regulations issued by EPA to include standards and guidance to states and a mandate for states to submit their methane reduction plans to EPA for review.

Sec. 3 establishes a technology commercialization program under the Department of Energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the oil and natural gas sector, and to improve existing technologies and practices to reduce such emissions.

Sec. 4 establishes a grant program under the Department of Energy to award grants to states for the purpose of improving public safety and environmental performance of natural gas distribution systems by (1) offsetting rate increases to low-income households and (2) providing incentives for natural gas distribution companies to accelerate, expand, or enhance improvements to the natural gas distribution system.

Sec. 5 amends the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue new rules to reduce and prevent the waste of natural gas from Federal leases and to increase reporting requirements for new and existing wells on Federal land by:

- Requiring the capture of 85% of all gas produced on public lands within 3 years of enactment, and 99% of gas within 5 years;
- Prohibiting venting natural gas on public lands;
- Prohibiting flaring from new wells, effective 2 years after enactment;
- Requiring that every application for a permit to drill a well on public lands (1) demonstrate the ability to capture the expected quantity of produced gas from the well and (2) be published with an opportunity for a public comment period of at least 30 days;
- Setting performance and equipment standards to minimize gas loss;
- Requiring leak detection and inspection programs and mandating any leaks found to be repaired promptly;
- Requiring each operator on public lands to measure and report all gas produced, consumed, or lost through venting, flaring, or fugitive releases; and
- Making all data produced under the measuring and reporting requirements publicly available on the internet.